

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 2nd September 1876.

In the course of a very long editorial headed—"The Jail system in this country," the *Sambád Bháskar* of the 21st August writes,—For a long time past the jails in Bengal have been suffered to remain in a most miserable condition; and while improvements of various kinds have been made in other departments, the state of the prisoners has remained the same. During the administration of Sir John Peter Grant, projects were laid for the improvement of their condition; but unfortunately they were nipped in the bud as soon as His Honor retired; and from that time forward neither the Government nor the public have given any serious attention to the subject. With but one or two noble exceptions, almost all the Superintendents of Jails at different times introduced very rigorous discipline; and some, as for instance, Dr. Lynch and Mr. Smith, oppressed the unfortunate prisoners so sorely as no sensible man would treat a beast. Besides, a very invidious distinction is oftentimes made between European and Native prisoners. While the former enjoy all the comforts available, the latter are forced to work hard, exposed to rain and the heat of the sun, with very unwholesome and scanty fare. It is also very wrong for the Jail Authorities to tolerate no distinction of caste among the native prisoners; nor are any efforts made to afford them practical instruction, which may be of use to them after their release. The authorities believe that there is no way of reforming their character, but that of forcing them to undergo hard toil and labour, which end in the death of many. Such is the condition of the Presidency Jail and also of those in the mofussil, where the authorities never fail to imitate the severity which they find exercised here. Hence, if it be considered necessary to improve the condition of prisoners, the work must be commenced in the Presidency Jail; and if the new Indian Association succeed in their endeavours to promote this end, they will doubtless earn the praise and blessing of the community. We also engage to second their efforts in this most generous and noble purpose.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
August 21st, 1876.

2. The same paper directs the attention of the Calcutta Municipality to the great inconvenience and injury arising from the wretched condition of the streets, and the heaps of broken bricks which are suffered to remain on the side paths.

SAMBAD BHASKAR.

3. A correspondent, writing to the same paper from Haripal, a village under the jurisdiction of the Serampore sub-division, says that robbery prevails to a most fearful extent in the mofussil; and that this is owing to the absence of rigour in the modern laws, and to the encouragement given to the robbers by many ruined petty zemindars, who do not hesitate to purchase stolen goods from them. The writer then expresses his very great satisfaction at the vigorous measures recently adopted by Mr. Haggard, the Joint-Magistrate of Serampore, for the prevention of theft and robbery in the

SAMBAD BHASKAR.

town ; and says that it is earnestly hoped by all the good men of his village that the Magistrate will also take similar steps there and in the adjacent villages.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
August 23rd, 1876.

4. Adverting to the intention of the Secretary of State to diminish the number of Privy Council appeals, the *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 23rd August, makes the following observations:—So far as we are aware, the public are opposed to all proposals to bar the way of appeals. They seem to consider that in this country, governed by a foreign nation, the hearts of the rulers are more prone to arbitrariness of proceeding than to the course which is consistent with law ; and hence, in administering justice in this country, it behoves Government to keep open the way for appeals. Moreover it appears that in the Privy Council, in not a few cases, the decisions of the High Court have been set aside ; and that not only where a point of law was involved, but even when it was necessary to consider a matter of fact. Under these circumstances the way of appeals should never be barred to litigants, no matter whether the subject of the suit be one as to boundaries or as to facts. But to prevent the great delay and expense which are now inseparable from appeals of this description, Government should so arrange that Indian appeals be entrusted to a particular section of the Council, and means used for making them less expensive.

HINDU RANJIKÁ.

5. The same paper, in an article on the appointment of natives to district judgeships, gives expression to views which have already been noticed from the *Soma Prakash*, in paragraph 31 of our Report of the 19th August.

HINDU RANJIKÁ.

6. The same paper has the following in one of its columns of news:—We give below an instance of the way in which the law is administered in Rajshahye. One Hara Náráyan Das, a member of the Puntia punchayet, was charged before the Joint-Magistrate, Mr. Fasson, by the local Road Cess Deputy Collector, with having misappropriated some money from the collections of the house tax. The man was tried, and on conviction was sentenced to jail. His friends, however, appealed against this sentence to the sessions court. The man has completed his term of imprisonment, and the appeal has not yet been heard.

BISHWA SUHRID,
August 23rd, 1876.

7. The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 23rd August, writes the following, in the first of a promised series of articles on the reformation of jails:—The late Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Campbell, was really a sincere friend and well-wisher of the country. Even now in his native land he has not forgotten India. Unfortunately, however, though he had resided here a long time and spared no efforts to understand the true state of the people, from his ignorance of their manners and customs, his well-meant exertions have proved failures. He was an earnest and hasty man ; and did not leave a single department of the administration free from changes. Whether it were the Civil, Criminal, Education, or Registration Department, everywhere he has made his name remembered. The present system of jail discipline is not a little due to him. He made the jails abodes of horror, in nowise better than hell to respectable people. It was his impression that the punishment of short-term prisoners should be so severe as to deter them from a repetition of crime. They are treated like beasts, and subjected to excessively hard labour. Under the rules now in force, men in high positions, if sentenced to jail, suffer more than those in the lower grades of society ; because though unaccustomed to labour, they are set to hard work by the Superintendent. The cruel treatment of short-term prisoners is opposed to justice and to the provisions of the Penal Code. Sir George's Criminal Procedure Code has been in a

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manner an amendment of that wise law, but is itself imperfect. It divides imprisonment into imprisonment with and without labour; but the nature of this labour is not specified. This leads to seriously injurious consequences. It is the duty of the Legislature to amend the defects of the Act without waiting to see a reformation of the jails.

8. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 24th August, observes, in one of its editorial paragraphs,—The proposition to appoint natives to the offices of district magistrates and judges has proved unwelcome to the Anglo-Indian community. Those that denounce the perversity of the native press, from a perusal of the virulent attacks made on it, have doubtless failed to comprehend the heartburning of natives. What happiness is there for a native? He is debarred from wealth, power, or honors; and what man is there who is not deeply pained to find himself deprived of his birthright? Add to this the hatred and oppression to which they are subjected at the hands of a section of the Anglo-Indian community. The intensity of this dislike has been clearly manifested during the present agitation for their advancement.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 24th, 1876.

9. The same paper, in an article on the relations of Government to the press, makes the same remarks as those noticed in paragraph 22 of our last Report from the *Sādhārānī*.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. Under the head of local news, the same paper writes the following:—One Kulachandra Chakravartī married a Sudra girl, passing her off for a Brahmini, to a Brahmin. On a complaint being lodged against him in the criminal court he absconded. For this offence the Joint-Magistrate, Mr. Pratt, had his wife, who was *enciente* at the time, brought into the court; and expressed his intention to keep her in prison; and it was not until she could furnish bail for Rs. 500 that she was released. We do not know under what law this was done. One Kirkwood has afflicted the whole of Bengal; we hope there will be no more men of his stamp.

BHARAT MIHIR.

11. A correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrikā*, of the 24th August, is concerned to hear that Government has proposed to abolish the district of Bogra, and reduce it to the rank of a sub-division, owing to the prospect of the Northern Bengal State Railway being opened within a short time. It is also proposed to transfer some of its thanas to Dinagepore, and some to Rajshahye, and to form two sub-divisions—one at Nowgong and the other at Birampore. It would be better, however, to fix the head-quarters of the former of the proposed sub-divisions at Sonamukhi or at Halhariya, as Nowgong is not more than 30 miles distant from the Nattore sub-division. Moreover, the jurisdiction of both Rajshahye and Dinagepore already extends over such a large area, that to increase it could only be at the risk of interfering with good government and a proper administration of justice.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 24th, 1876.

12. The *Samāchār Chandrikā*, of the 24th August, dwells on the cruel oppressions to which the coolies in Assam are subjected at the hands of the planters. They are treated like beasts by their employers. The condition of the coolie almost leads us to think that Assam and Cachar are not under the British Government.

SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
August 24th, 1876.

13. The *Sambād Prabhākar*, of the 24th August, deplors the want of good feeling between Natives and Europeans in India. Considering its power, Government does not make any efforts to bring about a reconciliation between them; forgetting that no kingdom can stand for any length of time where a feeling of animosity exists between the different sections of the subjects. We cannot comprehend the cause of this apathy; though a large

SAMBAD PRABHAKAR,
August 24th, 1876.

number of natives have been of late murdered by Europeans. Isolated efforts are indeed made towards securing the desired unanimity, such as the speeches of Mr. Bright in Parliament, Lord Lytton's letter in the recent Fuller case, and Sir Richard Temple's mixing in the society of natives, but these will be of hardly any avail until Government begins to look on both Europeans and Natives with an equal eye, whether in the matter of punishment or reward.

PRATIKAR,
August 25th, 1876.

14. The *Pratikar*, of the 25th August, in an article on the appointment of Natives to district magistrateships, makes the same remarks as those of the *Soma Prakāsh* of the 14th August, noticed in paragraph 30 of our Report for the 19th of the same month.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
August 25th, 1876.

15. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 25th August, complains that there are no roads in the village of Ghol Mundle Ghāt, under station Shyāmpore, sub-division Maheshrákhā, of the Howrah district. Government is earnestly besought to cause the construction of a road, out of the Road Cess Funds, from Oolooberiah to Tumlook, a distance of 20 miles.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
August 25th, 1876.

16. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 25th August, remarks, in reference to the unsatisfactory condition of the Police Department, that, considering the way in which promotions are accorded in this branch of the public service and the merits of the officers tested, it is no wonder that no better results are noticed. It is the system which vitiates the men; and if the corrupt practices prevalent be not resorted to, one's chances of promotion are gone; nay, he meets with disgrace and difficulties. For this reason no honest and educated man ever seeks to gain admission into the police. To gain the favour of the superiors, and thus to better his position, a police officer finds it necessary to send up for trial as many persons as possible, no matter whether they are guilty or not, care however being taken to extort confession from them. This subject should receive the careful consideration of Government.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
August 20th, 1876.

17. We take the following from the *Grámbartá Prakāshiká*, of the 20th August:—The country is flooded with laws; but the legislators are not wearied. The people are utterly perplexed to comprehend their meaning. The land, which sees a new Act passed every day, has an increased quantity of law in books merely, which cannot retain a place in the minds of the people. A better result might be secured if the contrary were the case, and the number of laws reduced to a small number. As it is, from their ignorance of the meaning of the laws, a large number of illegal acts is committed; and thus is brought about an increase of litigation which must be greatly deplored. All penetrating minds will doubtless admit that the multiplicity of laws is one of the chief causes of an increase in litigation. Besides, men who are totally unacquainted with the manners, customs, and the condition of the people in the mofussil, are chosen as members of the Legislative Council; and it is no wonder that laws, enacted by them, should turn out to be contrary to the desires of the public. The Mofussil Municipalities' Act is an example of the sort of work performed by the Legislature.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA.

18. The same paper complains that Government is indifferent to the crime of adulterating articles of food, which is widely prevalent at the present time. The unhealthiness of the people is considerably due to this fact.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
August 20th, 1876.

19. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 20th August, makes the following remarks in its opening paragraph:—The indigo and tea planters have inflicted an incalculable injury on our country; nor have they yet ceased to do so in certain places. Every one is well aware of the disposition of these men.

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That these ruinous industries may cease to exist is the constant prayer of India to God.

20. The same paper writes the following, in an editorial on "Fines imposed in Criminal Trials":—A certain unjust provision of the Criminal Code has proved a source of much oppression to those who are sentenced in criminal trials. The judge may, and does in many cases, enhance the term of imprisonment in default of the fine. But in practice, even when the convicted person has suffered the enhanced sentence, Government does not cease to levy the fine by the sale of his property, if he happens to possess any at the time, or if he comes by it afterwards. The police are always busy in their efforts to discover it. But is not such a measure unjust and ungenerous, and of such nature as, in a zemindar, would call forth the loudest condemnation? It is a shame that a person, who is unable to support even his family, should not succeed in inspiring Government with pity. The subject should receive the most earnest consideration. It is plainly unjust to levy a fine, for inability to pay which the person has suffered enhanced imprisonment, remembering too that while in prison he has laboured for Government; for it should be borne in mind that no one would care to subject himself to the rigors of the jail, if he had the means to pay the fine imposed on him by the court.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
August 20th, 1876.

21. The same paper complains of the Municipal Committee of Dacca, who are indifferent to the interests of the native rate-payers, though they constitute the major portion of the inhabitants, and therefore pay the greater portion of the municipal taxes. There is no relaxation shown in collecting them, while the benefits received are not at all adequate.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

22. The same paper, in two long editorials on the appointment of natives to the charge of districts, and the Secretary of State's address to the students of the Cooper's Hill College, makes observations which are but repetitions of those noticed in paragraphs 30 and 28 of our Reports for the 19th and 26th August respectively.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

23. We make the following extracts from an editorial in the *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 27th August, headed "England and India":—Not long ago, it was the practice of many English officials to make the statement, which was believed by many of the natives, that the Queen governs India only for the good of her Indian subjects; and that England does not appropriate to herself a single penny of the Indian revenues. At the present day, however, any such assertion would neither be made nor credited. Not only does England maintain, at the expense of the Indian treasury, an army which is India's only in name; not only does it lighten its own burdens by sending out a large number of its children to fill all the high paid appointments in India; not only does it drain the country of all its most valuable productions in various ways; but it inflicts numberless injuries on this country by making her pay for movements with which she has not the least concern. The cost of the reception of the Turkish Sultan in England was thrown on India. In the same way she was made liable for the expenses of the Abyssinian war, which was undertaken to effect the release of a few Englishmen. Thus the revenues of India are squandered, while her wants know no limits. Her income has considerably increased, but her necessities too have kept pace with it. No truth-loving man would however hesitate to say, that the self-seeking policy of England has much to answer for, with reference to the present state of the Indian finances.

DACCA PRAKASH,
August 27th, 1876.

24. Adverting to the cruel treatment of the coolies on the Assam plantations, noticed by the *Soma Prakāsh* and other papers, the *Howrah*

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
August 27th, 1876.

Hitakari of the 27th August, writes the following:—It is no wonder that everybody should be affected with pity, at the tale of the oppressions committed on the weak, poor, and helpless labourers. Government is indeed anxious to ameliorate their condition; but the intrigues and wickedness of the contractors and the planters are too powerful for this purpose. It is the duty of everyone to seek to remove their sufferings; and we are sure that in all such noble endeavours Government will lend its sympathy and co-operation.

SADHARANI,
August 27th, 1876.

25. The *Sádháraní*, of the 27th August, thus comments on the increasing desire manifested by all classes at the present day to acquire landed property:—The result is that the value of property has, of late, unduly increased; and one of the consequences, arising from this state of things, is that many persons possessed of but moderate means, who have largely invested in land, are greatly embarrassed at the low profits derived from it. They belong to the middle classes and constitute in all respects the most advanced section of society. And hence it is that we hear rumours of the oppressions of the zemindar having ceased, and of the tenant grinding his landlord down. With the advocates of the zemindar class, the cry is, that there was no occupancy ryot prior to the passing of Act X of 1859. This assertion is unhesitatingly and glibly made both in reports, newspapers, essays, and speeches. We could well comprehend the meaning, if they simply contended that the manner, in which the occupancy right was conferred on a tenant by the Act, did not exist before. But that is not said; as then they would not be able to show that the Act has been oppressive to the land-holding class. They therefore assert that there was not at all any occupancy ryot in Bengal. We would like to ask these persons one question,—If there was no occupancy tenant, then are the terms “khodkást” and “pykást” quite unmeaning, or were they the creation of a poetic fancy? If they are not, there must have been some difference in the respective rights of the two classes; and this difference, we conceive, was much the same as that which now exists between an occupancy tenant and a tenant-at-will. The Sovereign was doubtless influenced in this matter by some such consideration as the following:—It is not proper to make the zemindar concede any permanent right to a non-resident tenant, as the latter may abscond without paying him his due. So this class of tenants had no occupancy status. It would be therefore but ignoring the truth, and an attempt to put down men who are already weak, to say that there were no occupancy rights, because they were not enjoyed by all tenants alike.

SADHARANI.

26. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of the Magistrate of Barrackpore to the wretched condition of the roads in Kulinpára, a village under the Barrackpore municipality. The place abounds in jungles and is infested by wild animals. Since the establishment of the municipality the inhabitants have regularly paid the taxes; but they do not obtain any benefit in return.

SOMA PRÁKASH,
August 28th, 1876.

27. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 28th August, observes that the visit of the Prince of Wales to India has been productive of one great good. His Royal Highness has carried with him a knowledge of the dislike shown by Anglo-Indians to the Natives of India, of the oppressions committed on them, and of the frequent miscarriage of justice in the law courts whenever Europeans are defendants. Parliament, and generally the English public, were entirely ignorant of these matters; though they were occasionally noticed by Mr. Bright and others. In spite of the efforts, however, of the officials here to conceal the true state of the country from the Prince, His Royal Highness saw enough during his visit, even in the midst of pleasures

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and festivities, to convince him of the unsatisfactory character of the relations between the Governors and the subjects, as to excite his sympathy on our behalf; yet he had not the opportunity given him to know the true state of matters. The grievances of the people of India; how their life and property are beset with dangers; how some of them are causelessly murdered by the *sahibs*; how blows are inflicted at the root of their religious and social practices; how millions of helpless beings are beaten and forced to work; and how the oppressors, when prosecuted in the courts, have their faults explained away; how the doctors furnish certificates of a diseased spleen or liver in persons murdered by the iron blows of the *sahibs*; and how the little-minded, arrogant, and rash Anglo-Indian editor pours abuses on the people when dealing with such subjects; if he had known all these an immense deal of good would have accrued to the country. As it is, however, in all sincerity we pray to God that Albert Prince of Wales, and the future Emperor of India, may live long.

28. The same paper writes the following:—The action of Sir Richard Temple, in constantly mixing with natives, and the Minute written by Lord Lytton regarding Mr. Fuller's case, go to show that these rulers at least aim at an impartial treatment of the subjects. But what will such solitary efforts avail? Their object is never likely to be attained so long as the Criminal Procedure Code of Sir George Campbell continues in force; an Act which has vested with absolute power a number of low minded and self-sufficient officers, who are totally wanting in foresight, and betray an extreme partiality for their race. Whatever efforts the rulers may make to conciliate the natives, all prove to be inefficient, when they are such cases as that of a European fined Rs. 30 for murdering a Native, and a Native imprisoned for three months for causing the death of a dog. We would therefore observe, that if the rulers be really anxious to bring about a friendly feeling between the two races, they should first give proofs of their sincerity by an impartial treatment of both; and to do so the Criminal Procedure Code should be repealed. Let not the rulers even dream for a moment that the officers appointed to administer justice are not liable to error, or are entirely free from the charge of partiality. Their absolute power should now be curtailed.

SOMA PRAKASH,
August 28th, 1876.

29. In connection with the proposal to form appellate benches in the mofussil, the same paper approves of Sir Richard Garth's suggestion to appoint a barrister as one of the three judges composing a bench; for the civilians are generally wanting in a knowledge of the law.

SOMA PRAKASH.

30. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the provision of Act VI of 1868, by which no one is liable to pay more than Rs. 7 as tax, which is the maximum sum, acts very oppressively on those rate-payers who are possessed of comparatively moderate means. A man with an income of a lakh of rupees pays only Rs. 7; and one whose monthly earnings amount to Rs. 10 at most is required to pay two annas; at the same time the tax paid by the former is not liable to enhancement, while that of the latter always is. This is unjust, for the liability of the one is not at all proportionate to that of the other. Government appoints only wealthy and well-to-do men as members of a municipality. Brought up in comfort and affluence, they have little idea of the miserable condition of the tax-payers, the majority of whom are poor. The ambiguity in the law also produces much mischief. The Act has it that the amount of tax shall be in proportion to the means of the tax-payer. But with the exception of this vague statement there is no rule laid down whereby the income of a tax-payer might be ascertained.

SOMA PRAKASH.

SAHACHAR,
August 28th, 1876.

31. The *Sahachar*, of the 28th August, says,—The constitution of the Indian Government is altogether strange. It is neither a monarchical, republican, nor despotic Government. The Governor-General, though possessed of almost unlimited powers, is in many matters but a tool of the Secretary of State, who can with one stroke of his pen undo all the legislation of the Viceroy in Council. The laws again are not enacted by the representatives of the people, who have no means of opposing them. One or two natives indeed are occasionally appointed to the Legislative Council, but they cannot represent the views of the whole population. Nor is any good obtained from the Bills being published for the opinions of the public, for their objections are seldom regarded. To show this we would only refer to the Presidency Magistrates' Bill. Sometimes also bills are not at all published, but hurried through the Council and passed at a single sitting, the rules for the conduct of business being suspended. This has been twice done of late in the Bengal Council, in connection with the Bill for the Partition of Estates and the Land Registration Bill. This practice of the Local Council is open to grave objections.

SAHACHAR.

32. The same paper observes with regret that Sir S. Hogg does as he pleases with the affairs of the Calcutta Municipality. He dismissed the late Collector, and in his place has appointed two men without taking any security from them. The work of collection is not going on as satisfactorily as before.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

JOHN ROBINSON,

The 2nd September 1876.

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
2nd September 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	27th July 1876.
2	"Sambād Bhāskar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	21st August 1876.
3	"Hindu Ranjikā" ...	Beauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
4	"Bishwa Suhrid" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	23rd ditto.
5	"Bhārat Mihir" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
6	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	24th ditto.
7	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
8	"Pratikār" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
9	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
11	"Grāmbartā Prakāshikā" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.
13	"Dacca Prakāsh" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
14	"Sádhāranī" ...	Chinsurah ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakarī" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto.
16	"Soma Prakāsh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
17	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	28th ditto.
18	"Sulabha Samāchār" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	29th ditto.
19	"Samāchār Chandrikā" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	21st, 24th, and 28th August 1876.
20	"Sambād Prabhākar" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	18th to 25th August 1876.
21	"Sambād Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	25th to 30th August 1876.
22	"Behār Bandhu" (in Hindi)	Bankipore, Patna ...	Weekly ...	23rd August 1876.
23	"Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	25th ditto.
24	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

J. A. R.—Reg. No. 6388—5-9-76.